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V. I. LENIN'S CENTENARY

Lenin at the Second Congress of the Communist International (July 1920)
Lenin's theses on national and colonial questions were endorsed as decisions of the Congress

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★ **Developments in Cambodia** Pages 4 and 5

★ Survey of U.S. Neo-Colonialism *(Continued)* Page 2

★ *The Archaeological Battle* Page 3

South Viet Nam

Between March 28 and April 5, 1970

500 ENEMY MILITARY TARGETS HIT

LENINISM IN OUR EPOCH

LE DUAN

In an article written on the occasion of Lenin's centenary, Le Duan, First Secretary of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, has made an analysis of the characteristics of our epoch. Following are large excerpts of the article. The title, sub-titles and passages in italics are ours. — Ed.

MAIN FEATURES OF OUR EPOCH

DEALING with the notion of "epoch," Lenin has made clear how we must understand the word "epoch." He said: "We can know and have known **what social class** lies in the centre of the history of this and that epoch to determine its fundamental contents, the essential tendencies of its evolution, the particularities of its historical backgrounds... Only on that basis and, in the first place, only by examining the essential characteristics of the different 'epochs' (and not the particular periods of history of each country) can we judiciously define our tactics; therefore, the comprehension of the fundamental characteristics of an epoch is indispensable for the understanding of the particularities of one or other country."

Epoch is an objective reality which we cannot define arbitrarily. Human history has gone through different epochs and we are entering a new one ushered in by the great October Revolution, and which will last till the completion of the building of socialism and communism on a world scale. Historical evolution throughout this epoch

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PLAF artillerymen open fire on an enemy position

Survey of U.S. Neo-Colonialism:

III — Weapons of Neo-Colonialism

BESIDES the huge and varied economic means used by Washington in foreign countries as considered above, neo-colonialism, now reduced to the defensive but having at its disposal enormous technical and material power, and turning to account the experience of old colonialism, continual colonial wars, applies a series of political, military, cultural methods of operation not including espionage which now becomes a fundamental activity.

This is a true cobweb which entangles the country concerned in an extensive net and puts it completely under US sway. Take for instance the SEATO bloc which, in appearance, has only military purposes. Here is what an American author, an advocate of neo-colonialist policy, said of this bloc's para-military apparatus: "Seato was beginning to offer means for encouraging regional co-operation for cultural and economic purposes and special training programs. The vast Mekong River development project, extensive programs of international communications and transportation, and increasingly important cultural exchanges were all supported partly or entirely with American funds." (Montgomery: *The Politics of Foreign Aid*, p. 54). And the writer mentioned the programs of anti-malaria crusade, English instruction, marine researches, programs to train skilled workers and engineers, in which Thailand, Burma, Cambodia, Laos, the Philippines and South Viet Nam would take part.

1. POLITICAL CAMOUFLAGES

NEO COLONIALISM'S great innovation is the establishment of a local power faithful to Washington but with the façade of an independent government. The colonized country can have its representatives at the UNO, accredit ambassadors, often has its parliament and various parties. But economically and financially dependent on donations, loans, subsidies, arms supplies, such governments are but mere puppets serving as a smoke-screen for American domination.

While the protection of the interests of American firms is frequently their *raison d'être*, there is another motive binding up many governments of the Third World to Washington. We are living in an epoch where the toiling classes, workers and peasants, play a more and more important role in national liberation. The propertied classes in colonized countries, particularly the latifundia owners, feudalists and comprador bourgeois see their interests threatened. Old colonialism already was in collusion with the propertied classes.

Today in face of powerful revolutionary movements, US imperialism and the local reactionaries redouble their efforts. Phoney independence as well as a more important portion of the colonial booty is granted to native governments. With its tremendous technical resources and efficient means of exploitation of local resources than old colonialism, US imperialism can hand out greater alms and US funds can support a huge civilian, military and police state machinery.

Like a gangrene, corruption spreads to an administration poisoned by American aid. It is the state apparatus—frequently a "party," a family—which monopolizes the most profitable economic and financial operations—imports, exports, financial speculations, investments in foreign banks.

Frightened by US might, and also enticed by wonderful offers, the formerly wavering national bourgeoisie is now more wavering than ever. Under the dual impact of popular movements and US imperialism, its ranks are split, one part of it joins the revolutionary movement and the national democratic front while the other places itself at US beck and call.

To "maintain order" in the countryside, neo-colonialism always appeals to landed oligarchy and its political and repressive machine. In some cases, realizing the fragility of this mainstay, Washington tries to carry out "agrarian reform," not to give land to the tillers but to create a small landlord class possessed of a less backward mode of production. In fact, in the stamping out of the popular movements, Washington's best allies have always been the feudalists. Whenever a more or less liberal government—such as in Guatemala and Brazil—tries to curb the prerogatives of American firms and big landlords, it is toppled at once. In 1961, Arnold Toynbee, a British historian, not in the least Marxist, wrote: "America is today the leader of a world-wide anti-revolutionary movement in defence of the vested interests. She now stands for what Rome stood for. Rome constantly supported the rich against the poor in all foreign communities that fell under her sway; and since the poor so far have always, everywhere, been far more numerous than the rich, Rome's policy made for inequality, for injustice and for the least happiness of the greatest number."

To the ambassadors from Latin America, gathered in the White House on March 13, 1962, Kennedy said: "For too long my country, the wealthiest nation on a poor continent, failed to carry out its full responsibilities to its sister republics. We have now accepted that responsibility. In the same way those who possess wealth and power in poor nations must accept their own responsibilities." Those who possess wealth and power: the appeal is unequivocal. Beyond the national boundaries, there is class solidarity which links the US trusts to the reactionaries throughout the world, both of them resolved to check the world revolution.

Despite all demagogic manoeuvres, the political foundation of US-sponsored governments remain shaky. Thus the prime concern of the Yankees is to give their protégés a strong military and police backing. A sizeable army, paid, equipped and trained by the US, is the staunchest champion of American interests, as well as the best anti-revolutionary weapon. Washington is keen on giving these big battalions a commanding staff wholly dedicated to the US by their military and ideological training and chiefly by important material advantages. Washington thus keeps real mercenary armies in the world.

Parallel with these, the US is most anxious to train police for the countries under its thumb. Trained and equipped, this force addresses itself particularly to the task of suppressing popular movements. From Latin America to South Korea, from Greece to South Viet Nam, all the regimes installed by Washington are of a bloody dictatorial nature which use the most barbarous means of repression.

2. ESPIONAGE AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

CIA needs no publicity: it is conspicuous by its activities and well-known coups (Guatemala, overthrow of Mossadegh, the Bay of Pig...). According to James Hepburn, an American writer, its budget amounts to two billion dollars and the aggregate expenditure defrayed by the US government in intelligence operations runs to 4 billion. The CIA has a network of several tens of thousands of agents and a special fleet and aviation. It can be said that none of the governments of the Third World commands such means.

It is easily understood that CIA and other American secret services manage to recruit agents in all under-developed countries, to bribe many organizations, TUs, students' associations, political parties, religious sects, to buy off military-men, politicians, journalists, writers. It succeeds also in organizing and arming the reactionary forces; progressive-minded personalities are murdered, democratic governments overthrown by coups. It is Washington's "secular arm" in charge of "dirty tricks" in which the US official government does not want to have a direct hand. Gone the classical methods of espionage and intelligence!

To find a vantage-ground for these subversive activities, CIA and other US secret organs frequently resort, at the stage of infiltration and acquaintance with the terrain and people, to charity or university missions. The under-developed countries are swarming with benefactors and receive a lot of Catholic or Protestant missions and gifts for refugees and victims of accidents.

Special mention should be made of the Peace Corps set up by John Kennedy with an initial budget of 40 million dollars, a membership of 17,750 (1968) operating in 58 countries (according to the *Reader's Digest*). American youths volunteer to go to poor countries and help build schools, hospitals and teach the inhabitants the elementary rules of hygiene and rearing of pigs... This is to give people in the US as well as in the world the impression that the US is wealthy and generous and is ready to minister to the wants of poor countries in all fields. The Peace Corps members must learn the native language, share the life of the local people and become their technical and spiritual advisers. They are the missionaries of a new America who also must recruit and train disciples.

In fact, the Peace Corps is a tool of political and ideological penetration and its members occasionally will not fail to supply all necessary information to the US military and political bodies. Between philanthropic activities and espionage, there is no clear-cut boundary. Many countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America have ended by expelling Peace Corps members.

The US also sends an important number of university and cultural missions to the countries in the Third World. Under the pretext of educational tasks and sociological and ethnological researches, these American universities work in fact for the CIA and even train police as in the case of the Michigan University. India and Chile have complained of so-called sociological investigations carried out by American universities which in fact are espionage attempts.

All these charitable and cultural missions are also aimed at gearing all the cultural development of the recipient countries into a boundless admiration for US might, and way of life, disparaging the national cultures of colonized countries, and renouncing their national traditions.

Many students and intellectuals in the countries of the Third World are also invited to the US for study or for a long stay in order to acquaint themselves with the American way of life, and realize the US material might. There they are put in charge of organizations which make them pliant to Washington. Upon their return to the country, with US financial and technical aid they set up TUs, clubs and parties to serve the US.

In daily life, and for the consumption of the masses, the cultural and ideological offensive is launched by the US with plenty of information, films, TV pictorial strips, which popularize a subculture extolling violence and sex; it also sees to the introduction of drugs and prostitution on a large scale. In the early stage, this depravation can dull all national sentiment, all class consciousness, all sense of dignity; in the second period, that crowd of degraded and perverted people, caught in the round of debauch and corruption, serve as wicked thugs for the colonizers (killers, torturers, policemen). One could not underrate the importance of those mass media put at the service of neo-colonial policy.

3. MILITARY MEANS

AS a sentinel on the ramparts of freedom, as John Kennedy put it, or as an "international gendarme," according to Theodore Roosevelt, the US must have the necessary military means to carry out its policy. While resorting to the most refined political means, the Kennedy-Taylor-McNamara triumvirate was well aware that on the upshot, the recourse to arms remained the best means of neo-colonialism. Against the national liberation movement which gradually takes the form of armed struggle US imperialism must use appropriate weapons. To fight wars for national liberation, particularly guerilla warfare, is the main concern of the Pentagon, which fields two types of military forces: the special forces and lightning intervention forces.

The special forces called "Green Berets" usually officer the local troops in a "special war"; their concepts is based on the following elements:

— a special training to give troops aptitude for all kinds of fighting;

— a political apprenticeship which will enable them to wage an efficient psychowar and muster and organize local reactionary forces;

— a combination of tactics and methods based on the skill of

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EVERY year, on the tenth day of the third moon, we commerate the anniversary of the Hung Kings, the presumed founders of the first Vietnamese State, and this year the anniversary falls on the 15th of April. Tradition has it that the Hung Kings period ran between the third millenary and the third century before Christ.

"When thou drinkst, don't forget the source!", this Vietnamese saying reflects the state of mind of our fellow-countrymen and explains somewhat their fondness for the study of that remote past. But this love of history is not enough. If, in Viet Nam, each one takes an enthusiastic interest in vestiges of the bronze age and the early iron age, it is because the knowledge of the past is also for us, let us say straight out, a weapon.

It is quite true that, whatever may be the historical reasons, instinctively we feel in every fibre of ours, the strength of the national sentiment, because regarding this sense of national community, we have rather the inner conviction that legend is truthful when it says that the origins of our nation date very far back. One can guess how proud we are of the antiquity of our culture and the richness of our traditions, how valuable that patrimony to our people is, and consequently, how angry we feel when, during these last few decades, some scientists have in the name of a certain science taken pain to deny or cast doubt on the truth about the antiquity of our people. The sense of such an attempt seems to us clear, but that of our efforts is clear too.

People will not then be astonished that our archaeologists are busily making excavations like they are going to war, a war which, in addition, looks quite unequal when we began it a few years ago in the thick of US air raids against North Viet Nam; unequal, let us be more precise, not because that bombs were raining on our heads... But rather think it yourselves! We had with us the people's faith: since time immemorial and even today, on the tenth day of the third moon each year, people would pilgrimage to the Hung Kings temple to pay simple but fervent respects to the ancestors of the nation. Against this fervour of the masses, backed by some rare books considered since long to be dubious and by an oral tradition stuffed with wonderful things, the sceptics had a piece of cake resorting to erudition, historicity and scientific criticism!

Now, our archaeologists, formerly seriously handicapped by colonialism and the war, have made a series of successful excavations. The uncovering of the *Phung Nguyen* culture on the fringe of the neolithic, eneolithic and bronze ages, has cast a singularly bright light on the early stage of the Vietnamese national community. The discovery of the *Phung Nguyen* site, which was quite accidental, is wellnigh concomitant to that of many dozen archaeological sites dating back to the same period or to a later stage. Existing in the third or second millenary before Christ and locating essentially where previous generations called dimly the heart of the Hung Kingdom, it is patent that they were the material remains of the early centuries of what would be called ancient Viet Nam.

Our ancestors had set up twenty or twenty-five centuries before that charming *Phung Nguyen* culture characterized by the fine polished stone work and the richly decorative earthenware. The French sinologist H. Maspero deigned to speak with some indulgence of the "relatively advanced" material civilization of the natives in the ancient Tonking delta who knew how to farm their land with polished stone hoes and even hunt with bronze pointed arrows. But he did not realize that the hoe he spoke of effectively remained in use up to the third century B.C. and even later but did not in any way represent at that time the latest technique dating back in all probability to the *Phung Nguyen* era, it was rather the remain of what had been made many millenaries before that time...

Such is in a nutshell the image of the early era of the Hungs. What can we fancy its end? The famous *Dongsonian* culture will supply the answer.

This brilliant culture, brought to light half a century ago, seemed to have sprung suddenly there, on the banks of the Ma River, before any Chinese trace. As it was, it was a sort of enigma. But the Europeans who worked on it have one after the other, with firm assurances, given it the most unexpected paternities: O. Janse, invited to Saigon to teach archaeology, said that the *Dongsonian* bronzes might be of Takharean origin!

We are now in a position to show with proofs in hands that these bronzes come from nowhere else than the depth of their own past, if I may venture to say so. Now that we have revived the *Phung Nguyen* culture and the Vietnamese bronze age that followed, the *Dongson* culture which otherwise walks straight into the iron age is nothing but the logical outcome and the climax of the on-the-spot evolution of a civilization which is rooted deep in the soil.

We have begun research on the cultural and historical process from *Phung Nguyen* to *Dongson*. Extensive excavations and deeper analyses remain to be made but basing ourselves on the stratigraphic examination and typologic confrontation as well as on the C. 14 dating, we can now place a practically continuous set of stakes between the two landmarks. Thus, come little by little into our minds the outlines of a human community, more and more stable and civilized through many centuries and having a bustling life in the lowlands and midlands of North Viet Nam. Now we wish to carry out more elaborate investigations into the past to find the dawn of our history. Groups of specialists from various scientific branches have buckled down to the task of either determining what the land and people at that remote age were, or describing the economic activities, contemporary family, social and political institutions, or spotting the mode of living and thinking and, if possible, the sentiments and ideals prevailing at that time.

The subject has not been at all exhausted at present. Many essential questions remain unanswered. We have however begun to unriddle some mysteries, those for instance of the bronze drums which are said to be found everywhere in South-east Asia, of which the most remarkable and oldest specimens, belonging to the so-called Heger I type, are mainly located in North Viet Nam.

Our work shows besides that we must do away with the hesitation not to resume and examine more profoundly the thesis prevailing since the time of J. Przyluski and and G. Coedès according to which there existed an "Austro-Asian civilization." Can we still speak of sporadicity of documents? Sure, with the latest progress made in science, we must alter some data, — but in what direction? Let's deal merely with the question of the bronze drums mentioned above: by dating them accurately it is possible to present as one of the characteristics of that civilization "the rudimentary use of metals."

Thus, in a few years, despite US air raids, our archaeologists succeeded in clearing the way to a better knowledge of the origins of our people. We put all our national passion in it which made it possible to overcome great material and moral difficulties. But we also worked with all necessary scientific discipline because we feel we are fully responsible in this respect to our country and to our foreign friends and colleagues. By making excavations and carefully examining their results, we have the impression—well justified—to contribute somewhat to the general battle fought by our people against the US aggressors.

Sources of Our National Culture

The Archaeological Battle

Prof. PHAM HUY THONG,
Director, Archaeological Institute
Vice-President and Secretary General,
Association of Historical Sciences

A bronze ladle of the Hung Kings period (some archaeologists believe it to be a lamp) found at Viet Khe (Haiphong)
Photo: **Museum of History**

ANOTHER US DRONE DOWNED IN NORTH VIET NAM

A US drone was grounded by the Haiphong armed forces and people during its violation of the air space of this city on April 11, bringing the total of US aircraft shot down in North Viet Nam to **3,337**.

MASS MURDER OF VIETNAMESE RESIDENTS BY LON NOL-MATAK CLIQUE

THE US-manipulated ultra-rightist authorities in Cambodia committed on April 10 a new heinous crime against Vietnamese residents in Svay Rieng province by herding 700 of them into a concentration camp then ordered their troops to open fire on them, killing more than 100 and wounding more than 200 others.

An *AFP* correspondent in Phnom Penh, after visiting Prasaut village—where the incident took place — reported that over 100 Vietnamese were killed on April 10 near Prasaut, Svay Rieng province. He wrote : " About 700 Vietnamese were grouped in a flat enclosure, which is half the size of a football field... Although there was a barn in the middle, the civilians were not allowed to enter it and were compelled to remain outside in the torrid sun... A machine-gun was installed less than five metres from the enclosure."

Another correspondent reported : " The bodies of women and children, some of them infants, were lying everywhere... " " I personally counted 85 dead, but there were many others lying under shelters or in the shade of trees. Outside the barbed wire I saw the bodies of persons who had tried to flee the fire zone."

AFP further reported that besides the Vietnamese residents herded into the " refugees' zone," there are another 5,000 Vietnamese in Svay Rieng province and all have been " placed under surveillance " of the Cambodian army.

The pro-US ultra-rightist rulers in Cambodia have been doing their best to deny the massacre, claiming that these killed Vietnamese residents in Svay Rieng province had been " caught between crossfire " and even describing the slaughter as an " accident of war."

They still pretexted security reasons to keep the journalists clear of Prasaut.

UPI correspondent Walsh, however, affirmed that the (Vietnamese) civilians were shot to death with machine-guns and automatic rifle fire by Cambodian soldiers guarding the refugees' camp near Prasaut.

According to survivors, Cambodian troops at the camp ordered the inmates to flee. When the latter began running, " the guards opened fire into the streaming crowd."

Reuter quoted " the major commanding the Cambodian garrison at Prasaut " as saying that " about 100 civilians, mostly women and children, were killed early on April 10.

This mass slaying took place after the ransacking and pillage carried out on March 18 by 200 thugs on orders from the Lon Nol — Sirik Matak clique against Vietnamese and Chinese residents in Kompong Trach district town, also in Svay Rieng province.

IN a statement issued on April 12, the DRVN Foreign Ministry " strongly denounced to the brotherly Khmer people and the world public this atrocity of the Lon Nol — Matak clique " which " ran counter to all norms of international law as well as to the Khmer people's traditional love for peace."

The statement recalled that " right since the time they were preparing for the March 18 coup, the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak clique have been carrying out an anti-Viet Nam campaign by persecuting Vietnamese residents, and trying to sow discord between the Vietnamese people and the Khmer people. " " The savage massacre on April 9 in Svay Rieng was a frenzied move to cover the Lon Nol — Sirik Matak

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CAMBODIAN COUP MAKERS TRY TO IMPOUND MEDICAL AID TO SOUTH VIETNAMESE

ACCORDING to reports from Cambodia, the coup makers' group in Phnom Penh is scheming to lay hold of 16 tons of medical aid from France and other countries to the South Vietnamese people, which transited Cambodia on February 16.

The US-controlled ultra-rightist Lon Nol — Sirik Matak clique have tried by all means to exploit the transit of the medicines for the benefit of their CIA-directed frenzied campaign against Viet Nam. It has continuously claimed that the medicines had no " permission " from the local authorities, although at the Pochentong airport representatives of the French People's Medical Aid for Viet Nam had produced all the legal papers required. They even misrepresented the transit as an operation of " international black-market " and examined the cargo. Moreover they inspired the Khmer newspapers under their control to publish daily suggestions for " punishment " of the " offence " and " confiscation " of the medicines.

The act of the Lon Nol—Sirik Matak clique violates not only international law but also humanitarian principles. It only serves the US schemes to sabotage the real independence and neutrality of Cambodia, sap the military solidarity between the Vietnamese and Cambodian peoples and hamper the international movement for solidarity with the South Vietnamese people's fight against US aggression.

April 26, 1965 : *In an anti-US demonstration in Phnom Penh, the American flag at the US Embassy was torn down by the popular masses*

Khmers Rise Up Against U.S. and Henchmen

PEOPLE in many places in Svey Rieng and Prey Veng provinces, Cambodia, rose up on April 4, 5 and 6 in response to Cambodian Head of State Samdech Norodom Sihanouk's call for resistance against the US imperialists and the Khmer reactionaries.

Reports from Cambodia said over three thousand Khmers demonstrated in Chanteria district, Svey Rieng, on April 4 and 5. The demonstrators, armed with jungle knives or sticks, held aloft Samdech Norodom Sihanouk's portraits and slogans condemning the US imperialists and the Lon Nol-Matak clique. Frightened, henchmen of the coup makers fled from many posts and offices. Many of them surrendered to the people with written confessions and weapons.

In Samrong town, more than 200 people among them many Buddhist monks and soldiers of the Lon Nol-Matak army, staged a 2 kilometres long parade, stormed and eventually razed the Xa Day post.

In Sothongo town, same district, a meeting was held on April 6 by over three thousand people. The participants pledged loyalty to Head of State Norodom Sihanouk, and enthusiastically acclaimed the recently set-up local provisional committee of the National United Front of Kampuchea (FUNK).

Meanwhile, hundreds of young people in the district have joined the patriotic armed forces, the reports added.

The same reports said the armed forces of the FUNK took control on April 5 of Kongpong Trach town in Svey Rieng province. A number of the Lon Nol-Matak agents were punished for their obduracy, many others gave themselves up while the rest of them fled from the area.

In Prey Veng province the Khmer patriotic forces on April 4 besieged Krasang post, and took control of the whole area.

Also on April 4, the people and patriotic forces in Chi Pu area, Svey Rieng province, took arms and encircled the Chi Pu post.

The reactionary troops in the post who attempted to put down the people's uprising were duly punished. The people and patriotic forces in the area wiped out 2 companies of reactionary troops of the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak clique including the captain commander of the post, seized 377 fire-arms of various kinds and destroyed 4 cannons and one armoured vehicle.

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March 11, 1964 : *Phnom Penh people protested in front of the US Embassy against US violation of Cambodia's neutrality*

"UNO Secretariat's Discrimination Is No Surprise to Us"

SAYS NORODOM SIHANOUK'S PRIVATE SECRETARIAT

THE Private Secretariat of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State of Cambodia, issued on April 8, 1970 the following communique :

" The Western press reported that the Secretariat of the United Nations Organization had not published the communication of Prince Sihanouk which it regarded as belonging in 'non-governmental communications'... and that 'the routine of the Secretariat is to deal with the authorities which are apparently in control of the government of a member country.

" This discriminatory act of the Secretariat of the UNO did not come as a surprise to us since we as well as everyone have long known that certain bodies of the United Nations are practically dependent on US imperialism.

" The pretext that the Secretariat's routine is to deal only with the authorities that are 'apparently in control of the government of a member country' does not make sense because everyone knows that the UNO refuses to deal with 'the authorities which are apparently in control of the government' of China and instead deals with a handful of puppets who are taking refuge on an island belonging to the People's Republic of China and who owe their survival only to US imperialism.

" Allow us finally to add that the Lon Nol clique are 'apparently in control of the government in Phnom Penh' only thanks to their tanks which are entrusted with murdering systematically dissenting citizens. This method of 'governmental legitimation' will surely bring no credit to the United Nations Organization."

THREE CAMBODIAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEPUTIES DECLARE SUPPORT FOR SAMDECH NORODOM SIHANOUK

THREE National Assembly deputies of the Kingdom of Cambodia issued on March 26 a statement voicing their " full support for the March 23, 1970 proclamation of Head of State Norodom Sihanouk," said a report from Cambodia.

The statement called on the Cambodian people to " unite closely in the National United Front of Kampuchea " to " defeat the US imperialists and the traitorous clique headed by Lon Nol and Sirik Matak " with the aim of building an " independent, peaceful and neutral Cambodia. "

They were Doctors of Economics Khieu Sam Phon and Hou Youn, and Doctor of Law Hu Nim, three well-known patriotic intellectuals in Cambodia, deputies to the National Assembly, Sixth Legislature (1966-1970), who had many times held office in the Royal Government of Cambodia.

Below are some excerpts of the statement :

" The US imperialists and their henchmen have been stubbornly pursuing their scheme and acts of sabotage against peaceful, independent and neutral Cambodia. There has been anti-national 'movement' of the Khmer Serei, the act of treason of Sam Sary ; the coup d'état plotted by the Dap Chuol clique ; the bomb explosion in the Royal Palace ; the abortive attempt on Samdech Head of State's life which Reath Vath has confessed ; the acts of economic and financial sabotage by Song Sac and his clique ; the arrest, killing and imprisonment of patriots in Phnom Penh, Kok Kong, Ratlanakiri, Kompong Cham, Battambang, Kampot, Kompong Chnang, etc., slanders against intellectuals, monks, neutral elements, progressives and patriots and their dismissal from public offices and forcible break with Samdech Head of State... and finally the provocation of the civil war which has been going on over the past two or three years.

" ... Recently, the US imperialists and their lackeys with Lon Nol and Sirik Matak at the head have staged a coup d'état to overthrow Head of State Samdech Norodom Sihanouk so as overtly to bring our country and people under imperialist rule and serve the plan to expand war in Indochina and Southeast Asia.

" The situation generated by them poses a danger to the whole country and the entire people who are victims of murders, arrests and persecution. In order to maintain their reactionary administration, they have more than ever before sought to sow enmity and discord among the people, misrepresent the struggle of the people and heaped insults on Samdech Head of State. They have used guns and bayonets against youths, pupils, intellectuals, public employees, armymen, police, workers, peasants and national bourgeois and compelled them to take to the streets to support them and protest against Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk. They burnt houses, plundered property and killed and arrested Vietnamese and Chinese residents in an extremely savage and arbitrary manner.

" ... In the present tension which is likely to be temporary we affirm our resolve to strive after our ideal and solemnly declare the following :

" 1 — To remain always loyal to the cause of independence, peace, neutrality, territorial integrity and the free and really democratic regime of the people and the progress of the nation.

" 2 — To fully support the Declaration of Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk in Peking on March 23, 1970.

" We call on all fellow-countrymen, in town and country alike, to refuse to serve as soldiers and policemen and to die in the place of the US imperialists and their stooges — the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak clique of traitors —, to pay any taxes imposed by them, and to obey their barbarous laws. We urge them to sincerely and closely unite with one another within the National United Front of Kampuchea, organize guerilla and army forces to fight and overthrow the puppet administration, set up a sound administration at the hamlet, village, district and province level throughout the country.

" 4 — We call on armymen and policemen at all levels, the personnel of the administration at all levels to show a clear-cut attitude toward the US imperialists and the clique of traitors with Lon Nol and Sirik Matak as ringleaders. Unite with the entire people in an unyielding struggle to overthrow them. The National United Front of Kampuchea and the people's liberation armed forces of the Cambodian people are ready to welcome you at any time.

" The Cambodian people's struggle will surely triumph."

October 24, 1964 : *A village near the Dakdam post, 7km from the South Viet Nam border, ravaged by a US air raid*

LENIN'S CENTENARY MARKED BY MANY ACTIVITIES

THE *Su That* (Truth) Publishing House has put out a book entitled *Never To Deflect from Great Lenin's Path*, a compilation of 13 texts on Lenin written by President Ho Chi Minh from 1924 to 1967. This book will help the readers grasp the revolutionary theories formulated by Lenin for the working class and oppressed peoples all over the world. These theories were propagated in Viet Nam by President Ho Chi Minh after many years' search for a way to save the country.

THE cultural and art service in Hanoi has launched a campaign to propagate among the population Lenin's life and work, Marxism-Leninism and the theory of communism and the application of Marxism-Leninism in Viet Nam. A document dealing with the above subjects has been published in more than one thousand copies as a material for talks on Lenin to be held at various offices, enterprises, schools and agricultural co-ops. Slogans, streamers and posters have appeared in many parts of Hanoi. The city's Information Centre is running "from now till the end of this month a propaganda drive on Lenin. Mobile public address system have been set up for information tours in various districts of the city. The cultural and information offices have organized exhibitions on the Soviet Union and Lenin. Two series of postage stamps in honour of Lenin's centenary will be issued soon.

Cover of the book Lenin's Childhood *by poet Pham Ho, published by the* Kim Dong *Publishing House*

THE book distribution service has collected publications on Lenin to the readers. The Hanoi People's Library has held over 20 talks on Lenin, drawing thousands-strong audiences. It has also collected stories on Lenin for readers.

TALKS on Lenin and the application of Leninism in Viet Nam have been held by the various political parties and mass organizations in Hanoi. The Hanoi Federation of Trade-Unions has organized talks introducing books on Lenin and the labour productivity problem.

THE DRVN film distribution and cinema service has inaugurated a film festival to introduce Lenin's life and work and his great contributions to the Russian October Revolution and the world revolution.

The festival will climax in the period April 15-31 in all the provinces and cities of North Viet Nam and will later be observed widely in the various districts and villages till the year's end.

The program includes such feature films as *The Ulyanov Family*, *At the Turn of the Century*, *Lenin in October*, *Lenin in 1918*, *Stories about Lenin*, *Appassionata* and *The Man with the Gun*, and also many documentary films like *Lenin Lives For Ever*, *The Town That Bears Lenin's Name*, *The Last Stage of Lenin's Activities*, etc.

IN April, the Scientific Club of the Viet Nam Social Sciences Commission devoted all its regular sessions to reports on Lenin's life and work.

Almost all the magazines, reviews and scientific communiques of various institutes of the Commission have put out special issues including essays on Lenin's viewpoints on science and his concrete applications to various spheres of learning.

The magazine *Van Hoc* Literature) in its March-April issue carried essays by Vietnamese and Soviet authors on Lenin's viewpoints on art and literature, on the application of Leninism to the settlement of literary problems in Viet Nam, the teaching of literary works on Lenin, etc. The magazines *Historical Studies* and *Economic Studies* deal with Lenin's important propositions in the fields of history and economy, the application of Leninism to the solution of problems of the Vietnamese revolution as well as of historic and economic problems in Viet Nam.

The Institutes of Philosophy Literature, Law and History are also stepping up the study of fundamental theoretical problems of Leninism concerning art, literature, the State and economic problems in Viet Nam.

YOUNG people working in offices, factories, construction sites and agricultural co-ops in Hanoi now are engaged in a seething emulation drive, and have recorded many new achievements in honour of Lenin's centenary.

ACTING upon instructions from the Viet Nam Workers' Party Haiphong Committee in connection with the commemoration of Lenin's centenary and President Ho Chi Minh's 80th birthday (May 19), the Haiphong Administrative Committee has inaugurated a new drive of emulation among the city's population to mark these anniversaries.

Mrs Nguyen Thi Kim, a sculptor, working on an alto-relievo of Lenin to commemorate the great leader's centenary

The Judo Lesson

LEAN and feeble, the little man tore his hair, at a loss how to beat the huge mass of muscles and flesh of the formidable boxer facing him. He had packed his punch with all his strength, yet they had no more effect than a tickling whereas the boxer just gave a fillip to make his adversary stagger and to floor him. The problem seemed insolvable.

The judo professor arrived. Your adversary, he explained, is on the move, so you must derive your own strength from that very movement. Pick up his movements at the end of their trajectory and prolong them, then you'll send him into a fall that he himself has initiated by his own motion. That's the first rule of judo.

Of course, the professor continues, you must put all your strength in it. So far you do not know, to all appearances, where lies the essential of your strength. You just try to deliver hard blows and to knock down your adversary with your punches. You are mistaken! If you want to push your adversary over, that's by giving a good jerk of the haunch and not by pulling with your arms; if you want to deal him a body blow, that is with your foot, not your fists.

Then a human body has its sensitive points and areas of reflex of vital importance: here are, for example, the mortal blows, and the techniques of resuscitation you must know perfectly if you really want to overcome a dangerous adversary and put up serious bouts. You must, therefore, acquire a solid knowledge of the mechanism of the human body if you want to become a master of judo.

FOR long years I had been watching, though without knowing its rules, that thrilling historic judo match which was taking place in my country. My first reminiscences dated back to 1930.

I was at the time a small student of Vinh lyceum; a terrible famine was taking the lives of thousands of people everyday. One day, a crowd of several thousand peasants in rags, brandishing sticks, made for the town; I had the impression that all the villages in the suburbs were emptied of their women, children and old people like ant-hills inundated by a downpour. The crowd streamed irresistibly to the town where the French functionaries and the Vietnamese mandarins began barricading themselves in their offices.

Suddenly, an aircraft flew in above these thousands of men, women and children, made some circles overhead then, rat-tat-tat, opened up with its machine-guns. There was an undescribable panic. A few hours later, silence again settled upon the ground littered with several hundred bodies.

In the years that followed, each time I heard my classmates at the Hanoi University discuss the reconquest of national independence, I looked at these young men of well-to-do families, slender-built and smartly dressed, and I asked myself: what would they do when confronted

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LENINISM IN OUR EPOCH

(Continued from page 1)

will be marked by momentous changes and bounds and consequently the fundamental characteristics of our epoch will not cease evolving. However, so long as socialism and communism have not triumphed on a world scale, the essential contents as well as the essential trend of development of the epoch will remain unchanged and the period will last on. Each nation travels through different epochs of its history. However, these are not necessarily landmarks in the history of humanity. The October Revolution initiated a new epoch on a world scale because of its tremendous international significance, because it marked a turning point in the orientation as well as the tempo of the evolution of the whole human history.

"... Mankind is being liberated from the last form of slavery which is capitalist slavery or, in other words, salary slavery. For the first time, mankind has entered a regime of genuine liberty. History is passing from bourgeois democracy to proletarian democracy, from bourgeois dictatorship to proletarian dictatorship." (Lenin).

... Forty years after these assertions by Lenin, the communist and workers' parties have come to this unanimous conclusion prompted by the diverse historical realities and many concrete developments of the general situation.

"Our epoch whose essential substance is transition from capitalism to socialism and which has begun with the Great October Revolution is that of confrontation between two opposite systems, that of socialist revolution and national liberation, that of the crumbling of imperialism and liquidation of colonialism, an epoch when more and more peoples will advance to socialism and when socialism and communism will triumph on a world scale." (Manifesto of the Conference of Communist and Workers' Parties, Moscow, 1960).

Making a penetrating analysis of the class struggle, Lenin pointed out that the two antagonistic forces locked in a life-and-death fight which determines the orientation and tempo of the development of our epoch, are the working class and the capitalist class. Of course, there are many other bitter conflicts in our epoch, but in the end, mankind must make a clear-cut and most decisive choice between the capitalist economic system and the socialist economic system, between the spurious democracy and reactionary dictatorship of capitalism and the genuine democracy and revolutionary dictatorship of the proletariat.

In the era of imperialism, capitalism in spite of its appearances is on the decline whereas the working class which holds high everywhere the banner of national independence and democracy, is the most important force of progress of mankind. Revelation of the contradictions that are tearing apart the present world is indispensable for the laying down of the revolutionary tasks incumbent on each country.

The existing contradictions of the present day have been profoundly altered and exacerbated by the October Revolution: contradiction between the bourgeoisie and proletariat, between imperialism and the colonial and dependent peoples, contradiction between the various imperialisms.

The whole play of the interactions between these contradictions has generated a general situation characterizing the epoch of proletarian revolution and proletarian dictatorship: the new, socialist world, the workers' movement in the capitalist countries, and the national liberation movement, which constitute the three biggest revolutionary forces, are mounting co-ordinated attacks from many sides on the bastion of capitalism and imperialism.

In these conditions, the communist and workers' movement unceasingly promotes its vanguard role in all parts of the world, not only in the advanced industrial countries but also in the countries with a nascent working class very small in number compared with the other sections of the working people. The revolutionary cause of the working class, therefore, does not only consist of the socialist revolution but also encompasses other types of revolution.

THE STRUGGLE FOR PEACE AND THE ANTI-IMPERIALIST MOVEMENT

PRIOR to the October Revolution, Lenin had already charted for the Russian working class the road from the bourgeois democratic revolution to the socialist revolution. Since the October Revolution, the bourgeois democratic revolution and the national democratic revolution which unfolded in conformity with the general trend of the times have become component parts of the proletarian revolution. The latter not only manifests its class character by assigning to itself the goal of liberating the working class but also bears a national and people's character by assuming the task of emancipating all the peoples and all the exploited and oppressed classes. The slogan: **"Workers of all countries and all oppressed peoples, unite!"** has become the sacred appeal of our epoch, aimed at strengthening unceasingly the organic relations that cement the forces militating for the proletarian revolution in the whole world and at resolving the main contradictions of human society in conformity with historical evolution.

The unity aimed at securing victory for the revolution is also the unity necessary for the effort to frustrate the war policies of imperialism and achieve a firm and lasting peace. While calling for the unity of all the revolutionary forces opposed to imperialism and other reactionary forces, Lenin also made clear the attitude of the communists towards the issue of war and peace. Making an unambiguous distinction between the unjust, counter-revolutionary wars provoked by the imperialists and their henchmen and the just, revolutionary wars conducted by the forces of progress, the communists never protest against war in the name of "peace in general." On the contrary, they regard the stubborn waging or support of just wars conforming to the requirements of the revolution as actions consistent with the interests of world peace. Lenin also drew a clear line between the genuine peace and democracy from false peace. We are struggling for peace, that is actually to achieve a durable peace in independence and democracy, an authentic independence and democracy and not a "peace" in slavery, a fallacious peace. The struggle for peace must be linked to that against imperialism, for so long as imperialism continues to exploit and oppress the peoples and toiling masses, there can be no genuine peace.

The author recalls the three factors which concur in our epoch to give a vigorous impulse to the world revolution, the formation of a world socialist system, the development of the national liberation movement and that of the workers' movement in the developed capitalist countries. For its part, capitalism has become a state monopolist capitalism which is pursuing a policy of war, arms race, fascization and demagogy.

An important development which has aggravated the general crisis of imperialism is the collapse of the old-type colonialism. To "fill the gap," the imperialists, first of all US imperialism, through the agency of their "advisers" and a multiform "aid," have put into practice a **neo-colonialist** policy to replace the colonialist ruling apparatuses and methods which have been condemned. Neo-colonialism, however, has been soon unmasked as the product of the position of weakness of imperialism under the impact of the offensive of the revolutionary forces, a policy aimed at shoring up crumbling colonialism, a policy intended to counter the considerable and salutary influence of socialism on the national liberation movement, and finally a policy of the imperialists aimed at disputing outlets and raw materials of other imperialists at a time when revolutionary forces are in a position of strength. In a word, neo-colonialism is a **fundamental policy of imperialism aimed to fulfil its function as an international gendarme and realize its dream of world hegemony.** Persevering in their struggle for independence and freedom, the peoples striving for self-liberation together with the rest of progressive mankind have come to realize more and more profoundly that at the present stage the essential content of the struggle against imperialism is to oppose its neo-colonialism.

... The building of socialism and communism in the world socialist system, the rising of the forces fighting for national independence and advancing straight to socialism bypassing the stage of capitalist development, the movement of the working class and other labouring people in the imperialist countries are the **three major currents** of the proletarian revolution in the present epoch. The combined struggle of these and of the peace movement has created a new balance of forces in the world: the revolutionary forces have become unmistakably stronger than the counter-revolutionary forces, the forces of peace have grown clearly more powerful than the forces of war. That is the basis for the shaping up of the position of strategic offensive of the revolutionary and peace forces in the present stage of our epoch. Proceeding from the reality of an uneven development of the revolution and the urgent immediate task of promoting revolutionary struggle while striving to safeguard world peace, the revolutionary offensive strategy consists in **repelling imperialism step by step and overthrowing it part by part in order to attain final victory which is the complete wiping out of imperialism from this globe...**

NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE, DEMOCRACY AND SOCIALISM

THE noble ideal of communism is to achieve complete emancipation of man and secure for man all the falicities to develop to the full his abilities and build a happy and prosperous life. To this end, it is necessary first of all to liberate the peoples from all forms of enslavement and oppression and ensure independence and sovereignty to every nation. **National independence** is the first goal of the revolutionary forces, of all the peoples of the countries not yet liberated and the countries whose sovereignty is being infringed upon or threatened. As a matter of fact, so long as imperialism subsists the struggle for and preservation of national independence and the conquest of the right to self-determination of the nations and the equality among the nations still remains an issue of great importance in the program of action of the revolutionary forces in the world. Especially at the present time when US imperialism, putting into effect its neo-colonialism and counter-revolutionary global strategy, is frantically trying to maintain its colonialist rule in various parts of the world and encroaching upon the sovereignty of various countries in the capitalist world, even provoking and threatening the socialist countries, national independence is a revolutionary battle-cry striking at the vital centres of imperialism, not only in the old- and new-type colonies but also in the developed capitalist countries. In facts, is there any capitalist or imperialist country "ally" of the US in the "free world" whose independence and sovereignty the United States is not trying to hamstring with the so-called "relations of interdependence" which are in effect relations of dependence on the US? In the United States itself, is it not true that the ruling monopolists are daily trampling upon the authentic national rights and smearing the national honour of the American people, not only with regard to the Black people but the White as well?

Democracy is the common revolutionary goal of all the forces fighting against oppression and exploitation. It is linked to national independence as well as to socialism. The democratic demands of the present epoch are, in essence, completely different from those in the previous epoch, that of developing

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capitalism and of bourgeois democratic revolutions led by the bourgeoisie. The rising up of thousands of millions of people in the colonial countries to wrest back national independence is actually one of the mightiest efforts for democracy mankind has ever made. This upheaval is aimed not only at the winning of national independence but also at the liberation of labour and emancipation of man. The anti-feudal democratic slogan claiming land to the tillers is no longer inspired by the bourgeoisie and intended to pave the way for capitalist development but by the proletariat to liberate completely the labouring peasant masses and ultimately abolish all regime of oppression and exploitation. The democratic watchword put up by the working class and other sections of the population in the towns also assumes a profound revolutionary significance. It not only seeks to remove the obstacles to the development of the national economy but more important still, to free the working masses in the towns. In the final analysis, only when the labouring masses in the countryside and the towns are liberated can national independence be really achieved. It is clear that the national independence movement today carries in it a more and more emphatic democratic character.

In the developed capitalist countries, democracy is also a revolutionary slogan to rally various social strata around the working class. Socialism has become a revolutionary objective for all countries, including the under-developed countries.

...As can be seen from their contents, the revolutionary goals and tasks of our epoch reflect the organic links between the movements for national independence, democracy and socialism and the inevitable unity of all the revolutionary forces to generate an invincible strength capable of defeating imperialism and its henchmen.

Forced back onto the defensive, the imperialists are applying a predatory policy of war.

Nevertheless, they can wage wars only from a position of weakness and passivity.

Over the past twenty-five years, many major changes have taken place in the international arena in favour of the revolution and peace. The revolutionary forces are in a vantage position compared with the imperialist forces and their initiative of action is now much stronger than before. Even in the favourable conditions of the struggle to safeguard world peace, explosive revolutionary situations continue to appear in different countries and the outbreak of revolutions is no longer linked up with that of world wars. The revolutionary movements which continue to strive towards well-defined goals with judicious revolutionary methods, not only do not increase the danger of world wars but on the contrary have helped to check the adventurous acts of war of imperialism and clear the way for the world to advance step by step towards a steady and universal peace.

In the light of Marxism-Leninism, we never underestimate the risk of eruption of a new world war which the imperialists, first of all the US imperialists, are feverishly preparing. However, on the other hand, we also accurately appraise and clearly realize the new factor which has emerged in the question of peace and war, understand the real possibility of preventing a world war and the inevitably winning position of the forces of peace in the world which are getting together into a broad and powerful front.

The struggle for peace is an urgent task of the whole mankind. Peace is one of the most precious and necessary requisites for the building, consolidation and development of the socialist regimes as well as for the advancement of the peoples who have newly regained their independence and freedom. On the other hand, peace must be based on the independence and freedom of the peoples, and rely on the bulwark of the socialist camp. When the imperialists use war and counter-revolutionary violence to subjugate the nations and the working people, if the latter do not put up a stiff resistance, there can be "peace" only amidst ruins and in humiliation.

The struggle for peace and the safeguarding of peace not only constitutes a democratic movement but also is **a revolutionary task, a strategic task of paramount importance.** This strategic task is closely associated with the world revolutionary cause in the present stage of our epoch. The strategy of the struggle for peace necessarily includes **peaceful co-existence** between countries with different political and social systems. Peaceful co-existence must and can only be part of the whole strategy of peace. For the whole world, each success of the movement for national independence and democracy in any country, and each step forward in the building of socialism and communism in the socialist camp represents a positive contribution to the consolidation, strengthening and expansion of peace.

... Closely linked to the strategy of offensive of the proletarian revolution, the strategy of peace **aims at thwarting every war plan of imperialism, especially US imperialism, eventually foiling the whole war policy of imperialism and finally, through the total victory of the world revolution, removing the source of war from human society.**

The Judo Lesson

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with an airplane? I did not know that the planes became less and less efficacious when the masses began to act.

Then, one day I landed at Marseilles. I was fascinated in my first contact with France. Over several kilometres cranes stretched up their arms and ships were moored side by side. Lorries and trains rumbled on the wharves. This shambles of machines, of steels, of mechanic power took away my breath. I thought of our villages where practically nobody had even seen as much as a screw. I thought of my father who had not ceased telling us: "Well, you dream of independence while your country is importing even nails which we still don't know how to make!"

We were weak and poor. That crowd which a single aircraft could disperse and these nails whose manufacture was a secret for us haunted me for years. I cast a look at the two elders of Asia: neither Gandhi nor Sun Yat-sen had taught me how to silence an armed aircraft when we had only bare hands, and how to make nails that would not break. I read again the history of my country: never had there been any discontinuation in the resistance to the colonial rule; but a lot of men had died as heroes, and insurrections and uprisings succeeded one to another without ever harming a hair of the colonial regime.

Our scholars, in the name of Confucius and the King, exhorted the peasants to fight the invaders; but the peasants fought exactly as our forefathers had done when our foes were foreign feudal armies. And to fight that way against the Galliénis and Lyauteys, was really derisive. More derisive still were the attempts of the bourgeois and petty-bourgeois of the towns who hatched in the dark reckless plans for uprising. In point of fact, in a single night, the Yen Bai insurrection was crushed.

THE full light came with Ho Chi Minh and Lenin.

Imperialism, the highest stage of capitalism, Lenin tells us, is a regime uncomparably more powerful than any regimes in the past; amateurs and ignoramuses should not venture to give battle. But on the other hand, by his own progress imperialism is torn by inner contradictions, the revolutionary forces must know how to prepare their action in order to be ready, when these contradictions break out, to take advantage of the unbalance thus created and shatter the weakest link of the system.

That notion about the inner contradictions of imperialism is of prime importance. Unless we grasp it firmly there can be no possible prospect of success for the fight. Our scholars fought out of a sense of honour while in their heart of hearts they were convinced of the impossibility of victory. On the contrary, right after the birth of the Indochinese Communist Party in 1930, at the moment when the Party hardly counted three hundred members, a new frame of mind already emerged in the militants of the national movement. Deprived of everything, isolated among the masses not yet awakened politically, they however possessed the serenity of those who are sure of their success. The Confucian scholar facing the firing squad would cry out invariably: "I am going to die but I have fulfilled my duty." The communist militant, in the same circumstances, would tell his captors: "I am going to die but you will be beaten." For he thought, the day will come when the contradictions of the system come into operation and we'll fit our action into their workings, and we shall win.

The scholars and bourgeois conceived the nation as an homogeneous bloc. On this matter, too, we are told by Marx and Lenin, there are only motions and contradictions. Pry into the anatomy of your nation, look how the different social strata behave *vis-à-vis* the foreign domination and find out what their interests, their ambitions and their concepts of the future are. Behind every personage, whatever his declarations and his professions of faith, try to see first of all what social class he represents, and you will find the correct attitude to adopt towards him.

Pay first attention to the workers and poor peasants. The day when these men have acquired a national conscience and class consciousness, the battle will be won. There lies the driving force of the revolutionary movement. There lies the secret to our liberation.

NGUYEN KHAC VIEN

NO DE-ESCALATION IN U.S. CRIMES IN SOUTH VIET NAM

★ **MASSACRES, RAPES, TORTURES AND OTHER ATROCITIES DAILY OCCUR IN RAIDS UNDER "VIETNAMIZATION" PROGRAM**

★ **GAS AND TOXIC CHEMICALS GALORE**

★ **EXTENSIVE CARPET-BOMBINGS**

★ **FASCIST REPRESSION AND SPOLIATION AGAINST THE TOWNSFOLK**

A communique of April 4, 1970 by the Commission for Denunciation of the US-Puppet War Crimes in South Viet Nam has just been released by *Giai Phong* Press Agency, giving a summary record of the crimes committed by the aggressors and their stooges during the first term of 1970.

In this document, the crimes were classified in four categories as follows: massacres, chemical warfare, massive air raids, and fascist repression.

LARGE-SCALE MASSACRES AND DESTRUCTION

BEN TRE PROVINCE

In February alone, 164 raids, 17,000 shells fired, thousands of tons of bombs dropped; at least 330 civilians killed, hundreds of others wounded, and 400 houses destroyed. From February 17 to March 13, during a raid in Giong Trom and Thanh Phu districts many sexual assaults by US marines and puppet troops were listed. Among the victims were a seventy-year-old woman of Thanh Phu Dong village raped to death, another woman, Mrs An, just out of confinement, and Nhi, an eleven-year-old girl. In Thuan Dien village, women and girls were impounded separately for gang rapes.

In Thanh Phong village, from February 22 to March 1, over 40 people were killed by enemy shells and bombs.

CA MAU PROVINCE

During a raid in Nam Can village from February 20 to 23 aerial and artillery strikes killed and wounded hundreds of people. The enemy burned over 120 houses and plundered 6,000 tons of rice as well as hundreds of head of cattle.

KIEN PHONG PROVINCE

Within 13 days (January 10-23) in a raid codenamed "Mekong Waves," undertaken by a thousand US-puppet troops, many people were slaughtered, including two-year-old children and seventy-year-old women. Two girls called Nha (15 years) and Phung (13 years) were raped. Another, Le Thi Loi (17 years), was murdered in cold blood after beeing assaulted by several tortioners. Mrs Thanh (67 years) was also raped by 3 GIs. The tanks and armoured cars ravaged over 700 ha of crops and 50 houses. In the hamlet No 4 alone (An Long village), 36 people were butchered on January 15 and 21.

KIEN TUONG PROVINCE

More than 300 civilians were killed, many others arrested and tortured (some to death) during the raid codenamed "Mekong 2-4" (February 5-14).

DARLAC PROVINCE

From January to March 1970, all the houses, crops and belongings of the population in A Yun village were destroyed or plundered.

BINH DINH PROVINCE

In Vinh Quang village, Tuy Phuoc district, over 50 people were massacred during a raid in February by the US-puppet troops.

QUANG NAM PROVINCE

One company of US marines raiding Son Thang and Son Thanh villages slain 24 civilians with rifle-butts and bayonets; in Son Thang village, 16 people, most of them women and children, were penned up and mowed down with machine-guns.

INTENSIFIED CHEMICAL WARFARE

RACH GIA AND CA MAU PROVINCES

From January 1 to 12, over 35,800 ha of ricefields and orchards in Khanh Hung A and Khanh Hung B (Rach Gia province) were devastated by toxic chemical sprayings and thousands of people seriously intoxicated.

On February 21, in Khanh Lam village (Ca Mau province), and Van Khanh village (Rach Gia province) over 600 people were poisoned and one thousand hectares of crops, orchards and forests of cajeput stretching over 17 kilometres were ravaged by sprayings.

KIEN PHONG PROVINCE

On January 30, a large-scale spraying took place on 3 districts (Cao Lanh, My Hoi and My An). Over 40 kilometres, the crops which had survived the November 1969 spraying were completely devastated.

On February 1, 4, 6 and 23, new sprayings on Phong My, Phong Thanh, Tan Tich, Hoa An, Tan Thuan Dong and Tan Thuan Tay villages (Cao Lanh district), Thien My and My Quy villages (My An district): all the crops were ruined and hundreds of people intoxicated.

CHAU DOC PROVINCE

A vast tract of the Seven Mountains region was laid waste by a spraying in January 1970.

QUANG NAM PROVINCE

On January 31, in three waves, US planes dropped over one hundred bombs and containers of CS poison gas on Ky Phuoc and Ky Anh villages, Tam Ky district (in Quang Tin province according to the puppet administrative division). The atmosphere was polluted for one week in five hamlets and 250 people affected.

On January 26 and February 18, over 10 tons of 2,4D, a product euphemistically called defoliant, were dumped on Phuoc Lanh, Tien Tra, Phuoc Dong, Duong Yen villages (Tien Phuoc district), devastating over 100 ha of ricefields and dry crops over a stretch of 25 kilometres and affecting hundreds of peoples. Many head of cattle and poultry were killed.

This stepped-up chemical warfare was denounced by American Congressmen, such as Senator Stephen Young who stated that at this moment the Pentagon functionaries declared that they continued to use chemical toxics in Viet Nam, despite the fact that by so doing they committed an inhuman act which can make monsters of a whole generation (*UPI*, March 19, 1970).

CARPET-BOMBINGS BY B.52s ON POPULOUS AREAS

During the past term, bombing raids were intensified. On March 9 alone, 291 sorties were carried out by US aviation, Puppet planes made up to 4,000 sorties on an average a week.

On January 25, 60 B.52 giant bombers (individual capacity: 30 tons of bombs) struck at many areas in South Viet Nam, including A So sector (west-southwest of Hue) and the "three frontiers" sector (Viet Nam Laos, Cambodia) which received more than one thousand tons.

Over the past three months, the B.52s have flown more than 300 sorties against Ben Het, Kontum province; on February 18 alone, nearly 1,000 tons of bombs were released. Meanwhile, in Ca Mau province, the B.52s dumped on Khanh Lam village (already mentioned) hundreds of tons of bombs, killing and wounding 300 people.

On January 19 alone, these super-bombers hit with 900 tons of bombs the Seven Mountains area (already mentioned) in Chau Doc province, which had previously received 10,000-pounders.

FASCIST REPRESSION IN THE OCCUPIED TOWNS

— Arbitrary arrests of the acting President of the General Association of Students and 40 other people on March 11 in Saigon.

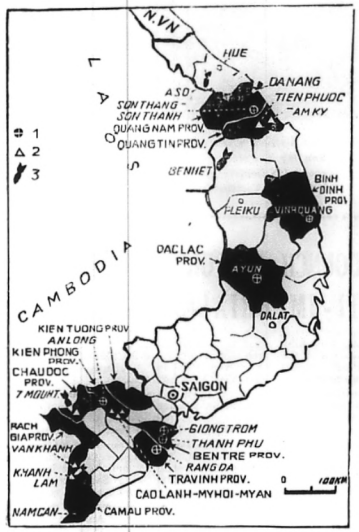
— Puppets' use in Tra Vinh town (Mekong Delta) on February 10 of tear gas and mortar shells against Khmer demonstrators coming from 6 districts (the province is dominantly peopled with Khmers). They protested against the impressing of troops, raids, plunders and devastations committed by the US-puppets and demanded the removal of the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique and the withdrawal of US troops. A column of demonstrators suffered 2 killed and 54 wounded, all Buddhist bonzes, when it was marching past Bang Da, 8km southeast of Tra Vinh.

The crack-down on students was intensified. Many shools were closed and hundreds of professors and students drafted into the puppet armed forces. In a faculty of the Saigon University, 64 from the teaching staff of 80 were forcibly enlisted.

Gambling and prostitution were encouraged to feed the "Vietnamized" war budget (gambling dens bring in for the puppet State 5.5 billion piastres each year).

New taxes were levied in the same end. Prices of many staple goods were increased. From January to March 1970, rice price augmented by 150 per cent.

THE communique ends with an appeal to the progressive people the world over, scientists, peace, democratic and progressive organizations throughout the five continents and in the United States to do their best to stop the criminal hands of the American imperialists in South Viet Nam.



1. *Massacres, rapes, atrocities*
2. *Toxic chemical sprayings*
3. *Carpet-bombings*

BOSTONIANS STAGE A 75,000-STRONG DEMONSTRATION AND WASHINGTONIANS A MARCH

ON April 15, according to Western sources, demonstrations against the Viet Nam war were held throughout the USA within the framework of the American people's Spring Offensive for an end to the war and complete withdrawal of US troops.

In Washington, following the three days' hunger-strike of war protesters in front of the White House, a long march of Americans of all age was staged. Brandishing the Republic of South Viet Nam's flags, American youths made for the draft offices of the Navy in protest against the sending of youths to Viet Nam. Policemen, called in for repressive action, wounded many demonstrators and arrested 9 others. The demonstrators smashed window-panes of the recruitment centres.

On the afternoon of April 15, some 25,000 Bostonians, mostly youths, organized a demonstration at the municipal park. They chanted slogans opposing the continuation of the Viet Nam war, then proceeded to Cambridge to take part in the protest of the city population.

On the evening of the same day, about 6,000 young men in Cambridge called a meeting in Harvard Square while other similar actions were mounted in other places of the city. The governor of Massachusetts decreed the state of emergency and dispatched 25,000 civil guards and thousands of cops to Boston and Cambridge.

300 people were injured by tear gas and other brutalities. The demonstrators retaliated by breaking window-panes and setting fire to many public buildings.

In Houston 2,000 women participants to the National Christians' Conference passed a resolution urging the Nixon administration to immediately withdraw its troops from Viet Nam. They then took part in a candle procession against the war in Viet Nam.

A demonstration was staged by Detroiters for an end to the war in Viet Nam and tax reduction. They were dealt with by the police who arrested a number of them; 300 youths responded by pelting the police with stones and ransacking their cars.

A FRUITFUL YEAR FOR THE LAO PEOPLE

NEARLY 22,000 enemy troops have been put out of action and 160 aircraft downed in Laos since April 1969, the Lao Patriotic Front Agency *KPL* reported.

The patriotic forces also captured or destroyed nearly 5,000 arms of various types and 270 military vehicles. The figures were cited in an article released by *KPL* on the occasion of the "Buon Hot Nam," traditional festival of the Lao people.

The article denounced operation "Kou Kiet" carried out from August 1969 to February 1970 in the Plain of Jars – Xieng Khouang area by nearly 50 battalions of the Vientiane army and "special forces" and over one thousand US "Green Berets."

***KPL* reported that the Lao people have scored new successes in the consolidation and construction of the free zones, where hundreds of irrigation works have been built and thousands of hectares of cropland reclaimed. School enrolment has increased by 70 per cent compared with the school-year 1967-1968 and illiteracy wiped out in 16 new villages and over 200 new hamlets. The number of sick-beds is six times over that under French colonial rule.**

The international image of the Lao Patriotic Front keeps gaining additional brilliance. The LPF delegates have visited many countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America and received a warm welcome. The five-point political solution put forth on March 6, 1970 by the Lao Patriotic Front Central Committee has enlisted the sympathy and support of many governments and mass organizations in the world.

RALLY HAILS AMERICAN PEOPLE'S SPRING OFFENSIVE

A rally was held in Hanoi on April 13 evening under the sponsorship of the Committee for Solidarity with the American People to welcome the 1970 Spring Offensive of the American people for an end to the US war of aggression in Viet Nam.

Present at the gathering were Noam Chomsky, Douglas Dowd and Richard Fernandez of the American intellectual delegation now visiting Viet Nam.

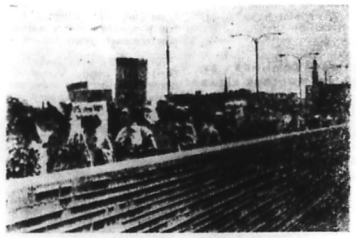
Prof. Nguyen Canh Toan, Vice-Chairman of the Sponsoring Committee, warmly welcomed the Spring Offensive of the American people for an end to the Viet Nam war, and praised the peace- and justice-loving American people for their firm opposition to the Nixon administration's prolongation of the war. He said:

"While fighting for their fundamental national rights, namely independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity, the Vietnamese people have been following with deep sympathy the just struggle of the American people. As Premier Pham Van Dong has said in his message to the American people on October 14, 1970: 'Your drive eloquently reflects the legitimate and pressing demand of your people to save the honour of the United States and to avoid for their boys a useless death in Viet Nam. This is also a very fitting and timely answer to the US authorities who stubbornly persist in intensifying and prolonging the war of aggression in Viet Nam, in defiance of the protest of American and world public opinion.'"

Speaking on this occasion, Noam Chomsky, Douglas Dowd and Richard Fernandez vehemently condemned the US imperialists' crimes against the Vietnamese people in both zones and urged that the US authorities bring immediately all US troops home. They paid profound tribute to President Ho Chi Minh and expressed their admiration for the Vietnamese people engaged in a just fight for independence and freedom, and their confidence in the latter's certain victory.

On behalf of the anti-war movement in the United States, the American guests presented the Vietnamese people with a number of books on the US imperialists' Son My massacre, and on the anti-war campaign of the American people.

West-Berliners demonstrate against the US massacre at Son My and other places in Viet Nam. The slogans read "US imperialists get out of Viet Nam!", "Viet Nam to the Vietnamese." (December 1969)



American women from New York State crossing the "International Bridge" to Canada to attend a conference with Vietnamese women in protest against the Viet Nam war (July 1969)

WORLD PEACE COUNCIL SUPPORTS INDOCHINESE PEOPLES' ANTI-IMPERIALIST STRUGGLE

A resolution on Viet Nam and Indochina was passed at the recent session of the Presidium of the World Peace Council held in Moscow to observe Lenin's centenary.

"The world peoples," the resolution said, "indignantly condemn the US administration's intensification of its Viet Nam war and its endeavours to escalate it to the whole of Indochina. They also arraign the acts of repression in the United States itself.

"It will not be possible to achieve peace in Indochina and to settle the problems of Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia without a larger and more active mobilization of popular masses for the fulfilment of the following objectives:

"— Complete, immediate and unconditional withdrawal of US and satellite troops from South Viet Nam.

"— Respect for the Vietnamese people's rights to independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity in the spirit of the ten points put forth by the NFL and South Viet Nam PRG for an overall settlement of the Viet Nam problem.

"— Immediate and unconditional halt of US aggression against Laos and its bombings in that country, application of the five-point statement of the Lao Patriotic Front.

"— Immediate cessation of US intervention in Cambodia, respect for Cambodia's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity in conformity with Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk's appeal.

"— Cessation of all repression in the United States and respect for the American people's constitutional right to oppose the war in Viet Nam and Indochina."

The World Peace Council Presidium also called on its member organizations to support the Appeal issued by the Stockholm Conference on Viet Nam.

"In Extending the War to the Whole of the Indochinese Peninsula, Nixon Is Courting Heavier and Heavier Setbacks"

Says DRVN Negotiator

SPEAKING on behalf of the Delegation of the DRVN Government at the 63rd session of the Paris Conference, Mr Nguyen Minh Vy said that the expansion of the US war of aggression in Indochina at present had its roots in a policy of intervention and aggression regarding this region, which the US had been pursuing for years now, especially since 1954, and which is part of the global strategy of the US.

"The realities in the past score of years," the DRVN delegation spokesman went on, "have shown clearly that in Viet Nam, in Laos as well as in Cambodia, it is the US which has been infringing upon the fundamental national rights of the Indochinese peoples, challenging the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Indochina and the 1962 Geneva Agreements on Laos, and fomenting all the troubles and tension in that area. Just as has been pointed out by many people in US political circles, with regard to Viet Nam, the US switched from military aid to logistics and air support, and then direct involvement of US and satellite troops. At present in Laos, the US is almost nearing the end of the same process. Troops from Thailand having already been introduced into Laos, to complete the involvement it has yet only to commit masses of US troops to a direct armed aggression. Meanwhile in Cambodia, that process has just been started by the March 18 coup in Phnom Penh, and the coup makers have been trying to pave the way for the next steps of US aggression. Consequently it is the US and nobody else, which must bear full responsibility for all consequences arising from the serious situation it has deliberately created."

"It is precisely," the DRVN delegate added, "to exert military pressure to gain a position of strength at the conference table so as to eventually impose on the Vietnamese people a 'settlement' on American terms, that the Nixon administration has escalated the war in Laos, staged the coup d'état in Cambodia and is spreading the war into that country. Mr Nixon does not save the US from more Viet Nams as he has often claimed, instead he is involving the US into new 'Viet Nams'."

"In playing with fire by extending the war to the whole of the Indochinese peninsula, the Nixon administration not only cannot extricate itself from its predicament in Viet Nam but also courts heavier and heavier setbacks," Mr Nguyen Minh Vy concluded.

MASS MURDER OF VIETNAMESE RESIDENTS...

(Continued from page 4)

clique's subservience to the US aggressors. It also showed the Lon Nol — Matak clique's confusion in the face of the growing legitimate struggle of the Khmer people and the righteous indignation of the world's peoples at their reactionary policy," the statement added.

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LATEST reports from Cambodia said that murders of Vietnamese nationals were being stepped up.

In what it described as "the greatest mass killing" of Vietnamese "yet discovered in Cambodia," *AP* reported on April 15 that "hundreds of executed Vietnamese" were seen floating down the Mekong River that same morning, "many of them with their hands tied behind them."

It quoted a police official at a ferry crossing sixty kilometres south of Phnom Penh as saying that he "had counted 400 bodies during the morning." "Still the bodies came and the bodies could be seen stretching for more than one mile up the river until they disappeared behind a bend."

The agency said most of the corpses showed signs of being shot.

UPI correspondent Jack Walsh said "dozens of bodies were seen floating down the Mekong River Wednesday about six miles downstream from a Vietnamese village burned and abandoned."

According to him "at least 25 bodies were in the river" at Kompong Phnom, 36 miles southeast of Route One leading to Svay Rieng.

A *Reuter* report said that thousands of Vietnamese residents in Phnom Penh had been arrested without warrants.

Mounting Discontent with the Saigon Regime...

(Continued from page 12)

— On April 12, the general strike staged by 60,000 students spread throughout South Viet Nam.

— On April 13, 500 delegates of Buddhist students and pupils in Saigon, Hue and Can Tho met at the Van Hanh Buddhist University and decided to begin a 72-hour hunger-strike which was immediately joined in by 52 students. A war invalids' delegation came to give support to the students.

— On April 15, *Tin Sang* and *Muoi Saigon* were closed down by Thieu. For *Tin Sang* this was the seventh time that it was hit in five months. On that day it ran an editorial an excerpt of which reads as follows: "The war invalids represent the past while students the future. Cracking down on them, this regime divorces itself from the past as well as from the present; in this affair, this regime leaves nothing but the image of days of disgust and nausea."

— On April 16, the police hurled tear grenades at the students gathered at the Van Hanh Buddhist University in Saigon, wounding many of them.

KHMERS RISE UP AGAINST U. S. AND HENCHMEN

(Continued from page 4)

On April 6, the pro-American reactionary administration in Cambodia sent 4 companies to the place to repress the local population. In close co-ordination with the people, the patriotic forces heavily engaged the enemy reinforcements, wiping out two more companies and trouncing the two others, and captured nearly too weapons.

AKP, the official news agency in Phnom Penh, admitted that the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak forces had sustained heavy losses in human lives and weapons at Chi Pu and Kompong Trach.

At present, the local population in Chi Pu are actively building their forces and bases and are setting up a provisional committee of the National United Front of Kampuchea in the region

SURVEY OF U.S. NEO-COLONIALISM

(Continued from page 2)

the soldiers as well as most up-to-date technical means at their disposal;

— an ideology based on a rabid anti-communist conception, and disregard for all human values: the "Green Berets" make no scruple to kill, torture and exterminate whole groups of people.

They must know how to brainwash the local forces and train them to **pitilessly** wipe out the adversary; the "special war" strategy, which consists in "scooping water to catch fish," hits at the entire people by **merciless** "mopping-ups" and a ruthless regroupment policy.

Nevertheless, the Pentagon is not quite sure of carrying the day with these forces alone. It keeps its most mobile and powerful forces ready to intervene at any time and in any place in the world to extricate itself from its predicaments. Kennedy brought the marine corps to 275,000 men and equipped them with an up-to-date armoury. Thousands of planes and helicopters and a huge aero-naval force makes it possible for the US to deploy whole divisions with equipment to areas within a 5,000 km radius in 48 hours.

Where economic aid, political camouflages, CIA sabotage activities and the "special war" fail, Washington is ready to throw into the battle its marines, aircraft carriers and airborne units. This is "local war."

NIXON'S speeches have wrought no great change to this neo-colonialist policy of an unprecedented aggressiveness. This policy is part and parcel of the US global strategy. A permanent, multifarious, insidious or brutal threat, according to each case, is looming large over the countries in the Third World. Not only the independence of these countries but also world peace is in jeopardy. Through the Third World, the socialist countries are threatened. But this policy bears in itself all the seeds of its weakness which make it inefficient. The material might of the US is impotent to offset the momentum of the revolutionary movement now bubbling in the world. The Viet Nam experience has been an ample proof of this.

Forthcoming:

U.S. NEO-COLONIALISM IN VIET NAM

TO THE READER

We are aware that there is much room for improvement in the wording of our paper. We apologize for this short-coming and highly appreciate all your suggestions as they will help to serve you more efficiently in future.

Between March 28 and April 5, 1970

500 ENEMY MILITARY TARGETS ALL OVER SOUTH VIET NAM HIT

— 26 TOWNS AND PROVINCIAL CAPITALS

— OVER 20 ARMY CORPS, DIVISION, BRIGADE HQs AND REGIMENTAL CPs

— 4 MILITARY TRAINING CENTRES

— MORE THAN 40 AIR BASES, NAVAL BASES, LOGISTIC BASES AND GUN EMPLACEMENTS...

FROM March 28 to April 5, 1970 the PLAF attacked over 500 enemy military targets, initial reports of *Giai Phong* Press Agency said.

MEKONG DELTA

An Giang Province (Chau Doc)

On the night of March 28 alone, the PLAF wiped out or seriously damaged 10 enemy bases and positions, including the Chi Lang military training centre at **Vinh Trung**, and the **Tri Ton** sub-sector CP, inflicting 3,000 casualties on the enemy. Besides, 500 men, 20 tanks and armoured cars were put out of action between March 30 and April 5, when the enemy rescue parties were intercepted by PLAF men.

My Tho Province

On the nights of March 31 and April 1, the PLAF hammered at enemy posts and positions on a 70 km section of **National Road No 4**: 1 regimental CP and 2 battalions of Regiments 11 and 12 of puppet Division 7 seriously damaged.

Ben Tre Province

In co-ordination with the population the PLAF on the night of March 31 struck at many enemy units in the provincial capital and the sub-sectors of **Giong Trom, Mo Cay, Binh Dai, Cho Lach**: they overran many posts, badly mauled two puppet battalions and knocked out nearly 1,000 adverse troops.

Vinh Long Province

Also on the night of March 31, PLAF men stormed 20 posts in 6 districts, and exacted a heavy toll of lives. The airfield at the provincial capital was heavily damaged.

SAIGON FRONT

Tay Ninh Province

From March 29 to April 2, the PLAF put out of action over 1,000 enemy troops, depleted 4 battalions and 10 companies, wrecked over 50 tanks and armoured cars, 30 ordnance pieces, downed or destroyed a dozen aircraft of the "First Cav.", US Infantry Division 25 and US Armoured Regiment 11.

Binh Long Province

Chon Thanh sub-sector and **Cay Cay** position were overrun, 300 enemy soldiers disabled.

WESTERN HIGH PLATEAUX

Kontum Province

The PLAF inflicted 250 casualties on puppet Shock Brigade 2 at the provincial capital and stormed **Vo Dinh** sub-sector and **Dak To** airstrip. The **Dak Sieng** "Special Forces" camp remained beleaguered and the enemy reinforcements suffered heavy losses.

Tuyen Duc Province

300 puppet officers and NCOs were killed or wounded in a PLAF attack on the military academy and psychowar training centre at **Da Lat**.

Gia Lai Province

At Pleiku provincial capital, the CP, airfield, armoured vehicles compound and administrative quarters were attacked with heavy adverse losses. At **Tan Tao** airfield, 25 aircraft were blasted to pieces on the night of April 5.

Quang Duc Province

The PLAF held control of the provincial capital of **Gia Nghia** for one day and one night, causing 300 enemy casualties, destroying 50 military vehicles and liberating 4 hamlets near the town.

Darlac Province

The local radio station and logistic base of puppet Division 23 at Buon Me Thuot, the **Hoa Binh** airfield and **Chu Hiem** and **Buon Trong** posts suffered heavy damage.

CENTRAL TRUNG BO

160 enemy bases and positions between Da Nang and Cam Ranh came under fire: the CPs of Brigades 11 and 198 of "Americal" Division, HQ of the South Korean "White Horse" Division, and CPs of puppet Regiments 5, 10 and 41, were hard hit.

The enemy positions in **Da Nang** city and such provincial capitals as **Hoi An, Tam Ky** and **Quang Ngai** were PLAF targets.

On March 31, the PLAF won an important success at **Song Mao**, 200km east-northeast of Saigon by wiping out the Infantry Division 23 HQ, the Regiment 44 CP, 2 battalions of that puppet regiment and the CP of a US armoured squadron: 1,000 enemy troops, 55 military vehicles were put out of action and 5 ammunition depots and many fuel tanks burnt down.

Miss Buoi, an outstanding sniper of Quang Tri province credited with 30 enemy casualties in one day

Students and Disabled Servicemen's Protest Goes On

Mounting Discontent with the Saigon Regime

TENSION ran high in Saigon as the action of the students and war invalids against the puppet regime continued.

— On April 5, the students shaved their heads and sent to Nguyen Van Thieu a letter written in their own blood to protest against the detention of 29 of their mates. The same day, at Tan Phu, a Saigon suburb near the Tan Son Nhat airbase, the police shot at the war invalids demonstrating against house eviction, wounding four.

— On April 6, 125 disabled ex-servicemen carried one of their mates wounded the previous day, to the "President's Palace" to ask for compensations. As they were denied entry, they picketed the palace until their demand was met. Meanwhile 10,000 students and pupils in Hue staged a sympathetic strike in favour of their Saigon comrades. In Saigon, policemen cordoned off the faculties and blocked the entrance to the National Assembly building.

— On April 7, disabled servicemen carried their wounded mates to the "National Assembly," but were bludgeoned and repelled by tear gas. An armless soldier was given a good hiding and dragged along in the street, while another ex-serviceman was also beaten up and thrown into a puddle of water (as revealed by a retired puppet major's protest letter dated April 10).

When students and pupils went on strike in Hue, Thieu dispatched there three battalions of puppet troops.

He closed down the Saigon papers *Doc Lap* for having exposed his intention of grabbing full powers by asking the "National Assembly"'s endorsement to proclaim the state of emergency.

The war invalids set up a committee of action in co-ordination with students and Buddhists of Cambodian extraction who have of late risen against the Thieu regime.

— On April 8, defying the police, hundreds of war invalids from six neighbouring provinces came to Saigon to protest against the puppet administration. The Association of [puppet] Militarymen's Wives also came out against the repression of war invalids.

Thieu banned three Saigon papers (*Doc Lap, Cap Tien* and *Thoi The*) which had covered this crack-down.

— On April 9, the General Association of Students and Pupils sympathized with the war invalids and declared to continue their sympathetic strike for an indefinite period.

Thieu had issues of the *Tin Sang* and *Cong Luan* seized on the same grounds as above.

— On April 10 a students' demonstration took place at Saigon Central Market place with streamers reading "We oppose tortures and cruelties against students and pupils," "Lift the police siege around the faculties." Another action was staged at the Cao Thang Technical School where students fought off police assaults with engine parts.

— On April 11, four papers: *Tin Sang, Cong Luan, Thoi Dai* and *Su That* were closed by Nguyen Van Thieu for publishing photos and reports on the students' demonstrations as well as the brutalities of policemen. Other papers covered the visit of five "MPs" to seventeen students detained at Chi Hoa jail and to four others at the Thu Duc Re-Education Centre near Saigon. The report said that the detainees had been submitted to electric current, and had their nails pricked by pins and pulenda seared by chemical products.

(*Continued page 11*)